ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION

—OF THE—

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Bethany Church, Monroe County, Ala.,

Commencing August 16, 1892.

OFFICERS.

J. W. LESLIE, MODERATOR .....Monroeville, Ala.
W. T. NETTLES, CLERK,.....Kempville, "

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY,
1892.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Appoint committee to read letters.
2. Names of delegates enrolled.
3. Election of officers.
4. Appoint committee on preaching.
5. Recognize messengers from corresponding bodies.
6. Invitations to ministers not accredited to seats with us.
7. Appoint committees to report during the session.
8. Report of committees appointed last session.
9. Appointment of committees to report next session.
10. Report of committees of the present session.
11. Motions and resolutions.
12. Miscellaneous business.
13. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
14. Treasurer's report.
15. Disbursement of funds on hand.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Ministerial Education—B. J. Skinner, E. D. Hixon, T. J. Emmons.
Denominational Education—John Watkins, W. A. Locke, E. B. O'Guynn.
Missions—T. S. Wiggins, A. J. Lambert, W. H. Fountain.
Temperance—C. C. McWilliams, L. N. Lambert, L. F. Warren.
Sabbath-schools—S. D. Nettles, J. E. Hanks, J. C. Falkenburg.
Woman's Work—W. B. Kemp, J. F. Deer James Brown.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

S. L. Lowery.....Brewton, Ala.
W. A. Locke.....Axle, "
R. I. Draughon.....Prairie Hill, "
A. J. Lambert.....Mt. Pleasant, "
B. J. Skinner.....Burnt Corn, "

MINUTES.

The seventy-fifth annual session of the Bethlehem Baptist Association met with the Bethany church, Monroe county, Ala., on Tuesday, the 16th of August, 1892.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by the Rev. W. G. Curry, from Nehemiah, 4th chapter, 6th verse.

The Moderator, Rev. B. J. Skinner, called the association to order.

Brethren T. S. Wiggins, W. C. Kemp and L. F. Warren were appointed a committee on Credentials.

After a recess of two hours the association re-convened.

The Committee on Credentials made the following report:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Bethany—Rev. B. J. Skinner, Jno P. Watkins, S. D. Nash.
Bellville—Wm. Norred, Wm. Keyser, J. W. Gaston.
Enon—A. D. McNiel.
Philadelphia—W. T. Nettles, T. A. Nettles, W. B. Kemp, W. H. Fountain, C. W. McClure, J. T. Newberry
Pleasant Ridge—J. S. Buford, G. H Roley, Winfrey Biggs.
Repton—Not represented.
Point Pleasant—Not represented.
New Hopewell—Not represented.
Ramah—Not represented.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Claiborne—Letter; no messenger.
Hamilton Hill—J. N. McNiel, Ed O'Guynn.
Mars Hill—Not represented.
Monroeville—J. F. Deer, Jno. DeLoach, W. L. Rekard, T. S. Wiggins, J. W. Leslie.
Mt. Pleasant—Not represented.
Montgomery Hill—L. F. Warren.
Perdue Hill—L. N. Lambert, H. Agu, A. J. Thames.
Poplar Spring—Letter; no messenger.
Oak Grove—J. J. Roley, J. E. Hanks.
Salem—James Brown, Richard Simmons.
Zion—E. D. Hixon, J. M. Falkenburg, C. C. McWilliams, Clay McCoy, J. A. Hetherington.
Judson—Luck Wainwright.

T. S. WIGGINS, Ch'n.

Resolved, By the Association, that T. S. Wiggins cast the ballot for Moderator. J. W. Leslie was named as Moderator. Approved.

W. B. Kemp was chosen to cast the ballot for Clerk; W. T. Nettles was made Clerk.

Rev. B. J. Skinner was chosen to cast the ballot for Treasurer; C. C. McWilliams received the appointment.

Jno. DeLoach, L. F. Warren, pastor and deacons of Bethany church, were appointed the Committee on Preaching.

The Moderator invited visiting brethren to seats in the Association: W. D. Curry, messenger from Bigbee Association.

Howard College was represented by Dr. B. F. Riley, and by his request and leave of the Association, Dr. D. I. Purser made a forcible speech in support of that institution.

Dr. S. W. Averett was recognized as the representative of Judson Female Institute.

The Sunday-school Board was represented by Dr. D. I. Purser.

Rev. J. W. Stewart represented Ministerial Education.

Missions was represented by Rev. W. B. Crumpton.

The Alabama Baptist was represented by Rev. C. W. Hare.

REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

We believe it is impossible to lay too much stress upon the importance of Sabbath-schools in our churches, as we consider it one of the chief sources for the maintenance of the churches. Some idea of its importance, both in the cultivation of a mission spirit, and the increase of the church membership, may be had by noticing some figures reached by examination of reports from seventy-five churches with, and seventy five churches without Sunday-schools, as reported to our last Baptist State Convention. Those with Sunday-schools report 5 273 members. During one year they report one baptism for every ten members. For missions and ministerial education they report 33 cents to the member. While those without Sabbath-schools report 5 114 members, with one baptism for every thirty members, and four cents each to missions and ministerial education. The difference in the figures is not due entirely to the absence of Sabbath-schools, but it is largely due to this cause. We notice in the last report to this body that more than half the churches in this association are without Sabbath-schools. Why is this? Can it be that parents fail to realize the responsibility resting upon them to train up their children in the way they should go? We cannot insist too strongly, that the officers and teachers of our Sabbath-schools be men and women who lead consistent, Christian lives. We recommend that the Sabbath-schools of this association use the literature known as the Kind Words Series, and published under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention.

T. J. Emmons, Ch'n.

Adopted.

Interesting and instructive speeches were made by Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Drs. D. I. Purser, S. W. Averett and B. F. Riley.

Committee on Preaching reported that Rev. J. W. Stewart preach to-night at 8 o'clock.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow. Prayer by Dr. Riley.

WEDNESDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

The association this morning was opened by religous services, conducted by Dr. S. W. Averett.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The time has long since gone for us to insist further upon having an educated ministry. That which has been done in the matter of ministerial education only seems to show our increasing needs for the supply of our pulpits. So important has the cause become, that our State Convention has felt the necessity of organizing a ministerial board. This board is most careful in the distribution of funds entrusted to it for the education of young men for the ministry. During the past year it assisted as many as forty young men in the prosecution of their studies Your committee regard the work as foundation in its character—underlying, as it does, all other church work. We therefore offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we give to the Ministerial Board at Montgomery our unqualified support, both in influence and contributions.

Resolved, That we respectfully insist that while the churches shall pray, as they are commanded, for more laborers, that the utmost care shall be exercised in the licensing of young men to preach the gospel. The cause is far too sacred, and issues involved too serious, for hasty action.

T. A. Nettles, Ch'n.

Adopted.

After the discussion of this report by Dr. D. I. Purser and others, a pledge from the churches was asked for, in response to which Monroeville gave $15.00; Philadelphia, $10.00; Perdue Hill, $10.00; Bellville, $5.00; Pleasant Ridge, $5.00; Bethany, $5.00; Salem, $5.00; Montgomery Hill, $5.00; Zion, $15.00.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

Your committee beg leave to report: There are three institutions which have special claims upon the Bethlehem Association, viz: The Judson, Howard College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The first is for the education of our girls, the second for our boys, and the last for the preparation of young ministers for preaching the gospel.

The claims of our sisters and daughters are urgent, as the opportunities on the part of women to do good increases with time. To prepare them for the high claims of home life and the social circle, and to give moral and religious vent to their lives, is the mission of the Judson. Its prosperity increases. 159 in attendance last session, with 19 graduates.

The Howard continues to thrive. During its fifteenth session, which closed in June, 196 students were enrolled, with a graduating class larger than ever before in its history. It enters upon its second semi-centennial with prospects of vast success.

The Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, is our school of theology. The great studies made by the churches of the Baptist denominations in the last quarter of the century are due in no small part to a better qualified ministry, and that ministry has in a large measure been the product of this institution. All these institutions have claims upon us, and are worthy of our support and patronage.

J. S. Buford, Ch'n.

Adopted.

Dr. S. W. Averett spoke for the Judson, and showed its high advantages in the thorough training of our girls.

The Howard College, as a school for boys and young men, was felicitously set forth by Dr. Riley.

Resolved, That in the absence of any formal report upon the subject of missions, because of the circumstances of the heavy rains, which prevented the attendance of the committee having charge of this work, we the members of Bethlehem Association, give our unqualified endorsement to all the agen-

cies employed for the furtherance of the gospel through our State Board and Home and Foreign Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

From letters sent up and from other sources of informatian, it appears that there is no general associational organization in the churches. If this should be considered as a separate department of Christian work, we suggest some practical organization of it in our bounds, so that, through its officers, we may, in the future, have a more definite knowledge of what is being done by our Christian women. T. S. WIGGINS, Ch'n.

Remarks by Rev. J. W. Stewart.

Adopted.

Resolved, That we, as heretofore, place ourselves on record in favor of the absolute prohibition of the vending and giving away of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors. That the Bethlehem Association is entirely friendly to all legitimate agencies for the suppression of strong drink, and is rejoiced in the growth of public sentiment looking to that end.

QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

We, your committee, recommend that the next session of this association be held with Perdue Hill Baptist church, commencing on Wednesday after the second Sabbath in August, 1893.

T. A. NETTLES, Ch'n.

Adopted.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this association notify all churches which have not been represented for two years, and that on failure to represent at the next session, will be dropped from the list of churches.

Resolved, That T. A. Nettles be appointed a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, and Rev. B. J. Skinner as alternate.

Resolved, That the thanks of this association be tendered to the members of Bethany church and to the citizens of this community for their cordial and hospitable entertainment during the session of this body.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee for all purposes		$109 37
Amount for Missions	$66 18	
Ministerial Education	13 99	
Associational purposes	8 25	
Minutes	20 95	—$109 37
Vouchers for Missions and Ministerial Education	$46 95	

C. C. MCWILLIAMS, Treas.

Moved and adopted that the Treasurer pay the amount for associational purposes into the minute fund.

Moved, that the Treasurer pay over all funds in his hands to the proper objects intended.

The weather being very inclement on the second day of the session, no public collection was taken for the various purposes fostered by this association.

Moved, that Rev. A. J. Lambert preach the Introductory Sermon at the next annual session. Carried.

On motion to adjourn, the Moderator declared the association adjourned, to meet with the Perdue Hill church on Wednesday after the second Sunday in August, 1893.

Prayer by Rev. J. W. Stewart.

JNO. W. LESLIE, MODERATOR.

W. T. NETTLES, CLERK.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.		Foreign Missions.		State Missions.		Ministerial Education.		Minutes.	Associational Purposes.	Pastor's Salary.
	V'chr	Cash.	V'chr	Cash.	Vr.	Cash.	V'chr	Cash			
Bethany			$ 5 00			$10 20	$ 2 70		$ 2 00		$ 150 00
Bellville				2 60				2 50	2 00		150 00
Enon						4 00			1 00		50 00
Philadelphia		5 00	10 00			5 00	2 40		2 55		150 00
Pleasant Ridge						2 35			1 05		
Claiborne									1 50		
Hamilton Hill		85		13 00					2 00		100 00
Monroeville	3 60		3 95		2 40		5 00		2 50		150 00
Montgomery Hill				2 00		2 50			50		
Perdue Hill			5 00				4 65	5 35	1 00		125 00
Poplar Springs									50		
Oak Grove									50		
Salem									2 00		
Zion		5 64	5 25			5 64		6 14	1 85		125 00
Judson		2 00		2 00		3 40			1 00		70 00
Total	$ 3 60	$13 49	$29 20	$19 60	$2 40	$33 09	$11 75	$13 90	$20 95	$8 25	$ 970 00

29.20
19.60

STATISTICS OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	No. Ord. Ministers.	No. Lic. Ministers.	Membership Last Reported	Increased by: Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Decreased by: Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.	Present Membership.	S. S. Officers and Teachers.	Sunday-school Pupils.	Preaching Sabbaths.
Bellville	Conecuh	B. J. Skinner	Jas Straughn	Bellville			62		1					1	62	6	35	4
Bethany	Monroe	B. J. Skinner	J. H. Watkins	Burnt Corn	1		46											1
Claiborne	Monroe	A. G. Lowery	J. D. Boykin	Perdue Hill	1		54				6			1	49			3
Enon	Monroe	W. A Locke	L. R. Carter	Hollinger			35								35			1
Hamilton Hill	Monroe	G W. Parker	L. A. Hixon	Claiborne			30							1	29	3	20	4
Monroeville	Monroe	B. J. Skinner	John DeLoach	Monroeville			79	1	2		1			2	79	7	36	
*Mt. Pleasant	Monroe	A. J. Lambert	G. W Falk	Mt. Pleasant	1	1	24											
*New Hopewell	Escambia	S. L. Lowery	C. G. Hammonds		1		46											
Philadelphia	Monroe	B. J. Skinner	J. D. Nettles	Kempvil e			106			1	3				104	4	30	3
Pleasant Ridge	Monroe	W, A. Locke	J. L. Smith	Monroeville			62		2				1	1	62			2
Perdue Hill	Monroe	A. J. Lambert	L N. Lambert	Perdue Hill		1	31	2	5		2				36	8	50	
Pleas nt Hill	Monroe	W. A Locke.	J. H. Moore	Perdue Hill	1		55											
*Point Pleasant	Escambia						38											
Salem	Monroe	W. A. Locke	G. W Thompson	Perdue Hill			124	1	2		3	2		1	121			2
*Ramah	Monroe						78											
*Repton	Conecuh						19											
Poplar Spring	Monroe	W. A Locke	M. C. Cumbie	Perdue Hill			32	1	4						37	2	15	1
Oak Grove	Monroe	S L. Lowery	M. Stacey	Tekoa			67	3				7			63			4
Montgomery Hill	Baldwin	A. J. Lambert	L F. Warren	Mt Pleasant			52								52	5	35	4
Judson	Escambia	A. T. Sims.	J. W. Fickling	Williams' Station			26								28			5
Zion	Monroe	A. J Lambert	C. C. McWilliams	Axle			129	1				1	1		128			1
Total							1195	9	16	1	14	10	2	7				

Sunday-school Superintendents and their Post-offices —J. A. Wiggins, Hamilton Hill church, Claiborne, Ala.; J. W. Leslie, Monroeville church, Monroeville, Ala.; W. T Nettles, Philadelphia church, Kempville, Ala.; I. D. Robers, Perdue Hill church, Perdue Hill, Ala.; M C Cumbie, Poplar Springs church, Perdue Hill; I W Fickling, Judson church, reports Sunday-school—officers not given; J. C. Falkenburg, Zion church, Axle, Ala.

*Not represented. Mar's Hill not represented for a number of years

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